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REMARKS

In the latest Office Action, claims 1, 4-8, 13, 15-17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacBeth. While applicant previously pointed out that MacBeth is not directed to a skate wheel including decorative spacers which are designed to be removed easily and interchanged by snapping them out of position, the Examiner pointed out that applicant has not claimed this feature. Accordingly, with this amendment, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15 and 21 to recite that the spacers are interchangeable by snapping them out of their respective positions. Basis for this amendment may be found in the specification at page 5, lines 7-9.

While the Examiner asserts that the spoke members of MacBeth would be removable by reversing the assembly process described in the reference, as previously pointed out, there is no teach or suggestion in MacBeth of removing or interchanging the spoke members, nor is there any indication that this could be achieved by snapping the spokes out of their position as claimed. In order for a reference to anticipate claimed subject matter, each and every limitation in the claims must either be explicitly disclosed by, or inherent from, the reference. See *Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc.*, 7 USPQ2d 1315, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Further, MacBeth does not teach or suggest an outer hub including both a groove and a recessed area for receiving spacers as recited in claim 21. The Examiner has pointed to no teaching in MacBeth which shows such a configuration.

Finally, MacBeth does not teach or suggest spacers having a flat front surface as recited in claim 1 as amended. Rather, MacBeth teach spokes which are of a convex shape. While the Examiner has asserted that it would have been obvious to modify MacBeth to have a flat shape, he has pointed to no reference teaching which suggests such a modification. Nor is there any motivation to modify MacBeth as he is

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not directed to a skate wheel. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-8, 13, 15-17 and 19-20, as amended, are believed to be clearly patentable over MacBeth.

Claims 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacBeth. The Examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to form the inner and outer hubs from aluminum, to form the spacers from aluminum, titanium, or plastic, and to provide the spacers with a decorative colored finish. However, there is no motivation modify MacBeth, which is directed to a **vehicle** wheel, not a **skate** wheel. Even if MacBeth taught the use of the claimed materials, the claimed invention would not be met as MacBeth does not teach a skate wheel having decorative spacers having a flat surface which are removable and interchangeable **by snapping the spacers out of their positions** as recited in the amended claims.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacBeth in view of Wahlberg (U.S. 1,602,560; newly cited). The Examiner has cited Wahlberg for teaching a wheel assembly having a recessed area for roller bearings, asserting that it would have been obvious to include recessed areas to receive roller bearings in MacBeth. However, claim 9 is believed to be patentable for the same reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1, from which claim 9 depends. The combined teachings of MacBeth and Wahlberg do not teach or suggest a skate wheel having the claimed spacers.

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For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-21, as amended, are clearly patentable over the cited references. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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